

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application and for the allowance of claims 2, 6-7 and 10.

Claims 2, 6-7 and 10 are now present in this application. Claims 2, 6 and 10 are independent. By this Amendment, claim 5 is canceled. Claims 11-20 were previously canceled. No new matter is involved.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U. S. Patent 4,871,162 to Imai et al. in view of GB 2132737. This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claim 5 has been canceled by this amendment.

II. Conclusion

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn; and that this Application be promptly passed to issue.

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Art Unit 3653

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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: *Jan 1 9 2007*

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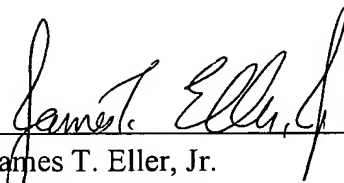
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Respectfully submitted,

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